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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Karin Lucas announced as mpls downtown council and Mpls Downtown Improvement District board chair

MINNEAPOLIS (February 8, 2023) — The mpls downtown council (mdc) and Mpls Downtown Improvement District (DID) announced today that Karin Lucas, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Success Officer of SPS Commerce, has been appointed as chair of the board of directors. She replaces Mike Ryan who served as board chair since February 2021.

Lucas, who served as chair elect, will oversee the mdc and DID board of directors comprised of members and stakeholders of the mpls downtown community as well as the organization's executive committee. Her tenure as board chair officially began today at the 67th mpls downtown council annual meeting.

"It is a great honor to become board chair of the mpls downtown council and Downtown Improvement District," Lucas said. "I'm looking forward to giving back to the city I love. I live and work downtown. Being able to help support a sense of pride in how we live, work, and play here is important to me, and I look forward to doing that working alongside fellow business and community leaders in the years ahead."

As a respected and active downtown business leader, Lucas has been active with the mpls downtown council over the past few years. She has chaired the Governance Committee and served on the Executive Committee. She has been a thoughtful leader at the table during mdc's International Downtown Association award-winning mpls downtown reanimation work over the past two years—which focused on inviting people downtown with more regularity for play and work.

"Karin is an exceptional leader, and downtown resident, who truly cares about the wellbeing of our downtown and the importance it plays in our city, state and region," said Steve Cramer, president & ceo of the mpls downtown council and Downtown Improvement District. "We are thrilled to have Karin as our board chair and know she will provide a vision and passion that will carry us into our next season."

Lucas takes over as mdc-DID board chair as downtown's residential population continues to grow and more people are returning to attend events and activities. There are now **56,748** downtown residents within downtown's five neighborhoods. More than **8.6 million** patrons attended sporting events, concerts or the arts last year downtown, back to pre-pandemic numbers.

The mdc and DID's role in downtown programming plays a role in people's return to play and offering converging events. The mpls downtown council produces the summer and winter flagship events Aquatennial and Holidazzle as well as produces Pianos on Parade, Go Outside with Hennepin

County and other events typically responsible for approximately 700,000+ annual patrons visiting downtown. The DID oversees year-round activations along Nicollet including the Downtown Street Art Festival, Street Show, theater performances, and walking tours.

In addition, mdc continues to convene, advocate and lead on behalf of our downtown community to help attract and retain businesses and top talent, add to our residential population, and create an extraordinary downtown for all. The DID continues to be a consistent presence within the 120-block district in keeping downtown greener, cleaner, safer, and more vibrant through its Ambassador program, safety strategies and ongoing partnerships.

During Lucas' tenure, the mpls downtown council and its roughly 450 members will continue to play an active role in advocating for downtown, ensuring downtown continues to thrive and maintain its trajectory of attracting new businesses, employees, residents and investment.

At SPS Commerce, one of downtown's top 15 largest employers, Lucas is responsible for defining and managing the company's customer experience strategy across all products and services worldwide.

Prior to joining SPS in 2018, she was president of North America Hay Group, a division of Korn Ferry International. She has more than 30 years of leadership experience in shaping and delivering on a customer-centric vision that focuses on excellence in service, teamwork and partnerships.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Wittenberg University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.

For more information and statistics from this year's annual meeting, visit www.mplsdowntown.com or follow @mplsdowntown on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

about the mpls downtown council:

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic central business associations in the nation, the mpls downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The MDC's collaborative developments of *Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan* was designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit mplsdowntown.com.

About the Mpls Downtown Improvement District

The Mpls Downtown Improvement District (DID) is a business funded non-profit focused on creating a more vibrant downtown. DID leads and collaborates on programs that make downtown safer, cleaner and greener. DID convenes people across sectors and jurisdictions to work on issues of mutual interest; develop innovative solutions to complex public space challenges/opportunities including strategic activation and seek continuous improvement of ongoing programs including the ambassadors. For more information, visit www.mplsdid.com.

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